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August 3, 1992

VIA COURIER

Richard J. Shiben, Chief
Land Mobile and Microwave Division
Private Radio Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M Street, N.W.
Room
Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED
AUG 3 1992
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Re: RM-8028
Ref. No. 7310-02

Dear Mr. Shiben:

This is in response to your letter of July 15, 1992, in which you requested that NABER provide the Private Radio Bureau with a description of NABER's planned coordination procedures for 800 MHz Business and General Category radio systems.

Your letter expressed your concern that NABER may not be "coordinating applications in a manner consistent with acceptable practices." This was based upon your interpretation of NABER's statement to you that NABER was returning "... without further review, all applications by Business and General Category applicants with proposed facilities located less than 70 miles from co-channel stations."

It would appear that there has been a miscommunication between NABER and the Bureau regarding NABER's coordination processes. While it is correct that NABER returns an application by a Business or General Category frequency applicant with proposed facilities located less than 70 miles from co-channel stations, it only returns such an application when the application is not accompanied by an engineering study or other documentation indicating that no interference would be caused to the co-channel system. If documentation is enclosed, NABER reviews the application to

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determine whether the documentation demonstrates compliance with Section 90.621(c) of the Commission's Rules. This procedure has been used by NABER since it began frequency coordination in the 800 MHz band.

NABER believes that its coordination practice is consistent with the Commission's rules and policies. For example, in its coordination of the SMR Pool frequencies, it is the Commission's routine practice to dismiss applications for frequencies spaced less than seventy (70) miles from co-channel facilities. The Commission will only review the application to determine whether the application complies with Section 90.621(b)(4) (the "Short-Spacing Chart") if the applicant provides the Commission with documentation demonstrating the proposed system's compliance.

In NABER's view, if NABER were required to review the operational parameters of every "short-spaced" 800 MHz application received and all co-channel licensees and generate predicted coverage contours for the each system, regardless of whether a demonstration has been included with the application, timely processing of applications would suffer and frequency coordination costs would rise dramatically. In such an event, NABER would need to review and generate coverage contours for every application which is "short-spaced", no matter what the co-channel distances. NABER would not know what co-channel facilities the applicant considered when filing the application, and would need to check each facility.

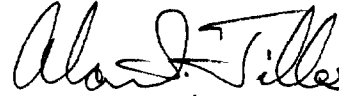
If the Commission adopts NABER's proposed rule change in RM-8028 and amends 90.621(c) of its rules, it is possible that NABER could begin using the "Short-Spacing Chart" for routine short-spaced applications in many areas of the country for the General Category and Business Pool frequencies, in addition to reviewing engineering studies. This will permit faster coordination of applications. However, the chart may not be useful in areas of rugged terrain, such as California, where the use of cardinal average height above average terrain calculations do not reasonably reflect the predicted coverage contours of systems in the direction of co-channel stations.

NABER is pleased that the Commission has placed NABER's Petition for Rule Making on Public Notice. The recent increase in wide-area SMR filings has made the necessity for the rule change of paramount importance. We hope that the Commission will act expeditiously on the request.

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Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alan S. Tilles".

Alan S. Tilles

cc: Jay Kitchen, NABER